

J. P. WILSON

INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS

VOL. II



No. 4

A SERIES OF PUBLICA-
TIONS RELATING TO THE
AMERICAN ABORIGINES

AN ANTIQUE TOBACCO-POUCH OF THE IROQUOIS

BY

ALANSON SKINNER

NEW YORK

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
HEYE FOUNDATION

1920

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THIS series of INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS is devoted primarily to the publication of the results of studies by members of the staff of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, and is uniform with HISPANIC NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS, published by the Hispanic Society of America, with which organization this Museum is in cordial coöperation.



AN ANTIQUE TOBACCO-
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IROQUOIS TOBACCO-POUCH



IROQUOIS TOBACCO-POUCH

AN ANTIQUE TOBACCO-POUCH OF THE IROQUOIS

By ALANSON SKINNER



THIS tobacco-pouch is composed of a leathern upper portion, with a bottom of twined woven Indian hemp bordered with wool, probably blanket ravelings. The entire surface of this part, on both sides, is solidly embroidered with dyed deer- or moose-hair in blue, white, yellow, and red, the red being faded brown from age, except inside, where the protruding ends of the hair have not been exposed to light. The edges of the bag are adorned with heavy antique opaque white glass beads. To the bottom are attached beaded strings with metal jinglers filled with dyed deer-hair.

The technique and the designs are similar to those of several ancient Iroquois burden-

straps, also in the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, so that the provenience of the specimen can be easily determined. This type of work was once known to the Indians of New England as well, for there is a wallet in the collections of the Maine Historical Society which is similar in technique to this specimen and which was obtained from an Abnaki woman about 1785. Of it Mr Willoughby¹ says: "Strictly speaking, the ornamentation is what is termed false embroidery, the outer wool cords being wrapped with moose hair during the process of weaving, and not after the cloth is finished, as in embroidery proper."

The bag herein illustrated is 12 inches in length,

¹C. C. Willoughby, Textiles of the New England Indians, *American Anthropologist*, 1905, n. s., VII, p. 90.

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